REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments to the independent claims overcome the claim objections. That is, the independent claims describe a set of flags that have M bits. Furthermore, the flags represent a result status of a mathematical operation performed by a processor to obtain the recited data item.

Claim 1 recites the presence of a status register that stores multiple sets of arithmetic flags, where each set is associated with one of multiple data items, and further that after a logical combination of the flags of the sets, a single combined arithmetic flag variable is stored into a second register. The art including Golston fails to teach or suggest this status register. In this regard, neither register 210 nor register 211 of Golston can be the recited status register of the claim. That is, neither register 210 nor register 211 can store multiple sets of arithmetic flags. Clearly as seen, register 210 simply stores a single set of flags. In turn, multiple flags register 211 can, based on a given operation of the Golston system, only store a single type of flag, although it may store multiple of this flag for different data elements. Golston, column 21, lines 41-45. This can be further seen in the various details of different operations performed in Golston, such as described with regard to the examples in columns 77-78 of Golston. As seen, only a single flag type is stored at a given time within multiple flags register 211.

Nor would it be obvious for the system of Golston to be modified to provide a status register having multiple sets of flags. Instead it appears that Golston is concerned with only a given type of flag for any given operation (e.g., column 21). In contrast, the recited a subject matter describes that each set includes multiple arithmetic flags for each data item obtained by performance of a mathematical operation.

Furthermore, nothing in Golston anywhere teaches or suggests that a determination is made as to any data item field size for each set of arithmetic flags. Instead, as discussed above Golston is concerned with only a single flag at a time. Furthermore, the determination contended by the Office Action with regard to Table 4 simply shows that a single type of flag can be stored in a given bit position. Nonetheless, nothing in the reference anywhere teaches or suggests that a combination function module examine this word itself to determine a data item field size for the sets of flags. Instead, all that is taught is that a field size of a status register indicates the data size of multiple operations that are to be performed. Golston, col. 20, lns. 33-35. However, there is no determination of a size of sets of flags, particularly as Golston fails to teach the presence of

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such sets, and further as the status register 210 includes only one, fixed field size set of flags.

Accordingly, further there can be no combining of multiple sets of arithmetic flags from the status register for storage in another register as described in the claim, since Golston fails to teach either the presence of sets of flags or the recited status register to store the sets.

Similar amendments have been made to the other independent claims and as such it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

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